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February 4, 2019

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Promoting Telehealth in Rural America*, WC Docket No. 17-310, Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Thursday, January 31, 2019, Anand Vadapalli, President and Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Communications, and the undersigned outside counsel to Alaska Communications met with Chairman Ajit Pai and Preston Wise, Acting Special Counsel to Chairman Pai, regarding the above-referenced proceeding.

In the meeting, we expressed our regret at the disruptions created by the lapse in funding that caused the recently concluded government shutdown, and our sympathy for the many government employees and contractors that have been affected.

At the same time, we urged the Commission to move forward quickly to modernize the Telecommunications Program of the Rural Health Care Universal Service Support Mechanism, and in particular to meet the Chairman's goal to adopt new rules in the first half of 2019. That schedule is very important to ensure that the new rules can be approved by the Office of Management and Budget and take effect before the start of the competitive bidding season for Funding Year 2020.

Please direct any questions regarding this matter to me.

Very truly yours,

Richard R. Cameron
Counsel to Alaska Communications

cc: Preston Wise